

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-11 NEA-10 ACDA-19 AF-10 EA-11 TRSE-00

OMB-01 AID-20 HEW-08 ARA-16 SCI-06 RSR-01 /221 W

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R 311706Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2900

INFO USUN NEW YORK 6494

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23217

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA

SUBJECT: KEY ISSUES AT UNGA

REF: STATE 163147

SUMMARY: ON BASIS OF PRELIMINARY REVIEW WITH QUAI OFFICIALS, IT APPEARS THAT USG AND GOF POSITIONS ON MANY UNGA ISSUES ARE SIMILAR IF NOT IDENTICAL. FRENCH SEEM MORE RESERVED ON INTERNATIONAL CONVESTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION; AGREE ON DESIRABILITY AVOIDING POLEMICAL DEBATES; SUPPORT ALL ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE FISCAL AUSTERITY, AND IN GENERAL, OPPOSE CREATION OF NEW UN ORGANS.

END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF AUSUT 30 REVIEWED WITH QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR UN AFFAIRS BEAUX ISSUES CONTAINED REFTEL. BEAUX NOTED THAT ON MANY ISSUES GOF POSITION NOT YET FIRM AND THAT IN MANY CASES DECISIONS WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT ACTUAL DEBATE. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EARLY INDICATION OF USG VIEWS ON MAJOR ISSUES. GOF FULLY AGREED WITH US EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE ACRIMONIOUS AND POLEMICAL DEBATES AND ACHIEVE GREATER DEGREE OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN UN. ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES, BEAUX INDICATED DISCUSSIONS MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROPRIATELY HELD WITH APPROPRIATE SUBSTANTIVE DIVISIN OF QUAI.

(EMBASSY HAS ALREADY REPORTED ON KOREA, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN ISSUES AND WILL BE REPORTING SEPARATELY ON DISARMAMENT SUBJECTS.)

2. PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS AND TERRORISM: BEAUX NOTED THAT FRENCH APPROACH TO THESE PROBLEMS HAD NOT CHANGED. GOF WANTED CONVENTIONS TO BE EFFECTIVE, ENFORCEABLE AND BASED ON BROAD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. IN VIEW OF RESERVATIONS OF ARABS AND AFRICANS AT LAST UNGA, HE WAS SKEPTICAL THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FINISH WORK ON CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS DURING 28TH UNGA SESSION. GOF DOES NOT OPPOSE GIVING ITEM HIGH PRIORITY ON AGENDA. FRENCH DO NOT AGREE WITH USG VIEW THAT DEFINITION OF TERRORISM IS UNDESIRABLE AND BELIEVE THAT DEFINITION MUST BE INTEGRAL PART OF ANY EFFORT TO GET EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

3. WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE: BEAUX REITERATED STANDARD GOF VIEW THAT ANY SUCH CONFERENCE MUST HAVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL NUCLEAR POWERS. GOF HE SAID, NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IRANIAN PROPOSAL BUT HAD NOT TAKEN FINAL POSITION.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS: BOTH ON ISSUE OF CURRENT DRAFT PROGRAM FOR DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF UNHC OR HUMAN RIGHTS, FRENCH FAVORABLE IN PRINCIPLE. HOWEVER, GOF CONVERNED AT EXTENT OF OPPOSITION TO CREATION OF NEW UNHC AND WILL INSIST THAT MANDATE BE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT. (GOF, AS CSCE DISCUSSIONS HAVE MADE CLEAR, VERY MUCH SHARES USG INTEREST IN PROMOTING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND EXPRESSION.)

5. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS: BEAUX SAID THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD ASSESSMENT ISSUE WOULD BE REOPENED. GOF CONSIDERED ISSUE DECIDED ONCE AND FOR ALL LAST YEAR. GOF FULLY CONCURS IN USG VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE FISCAL AUSTERITY AT UN AND THAT ECONOMIES MUST BE MADE IN ORDER TO KEEP BUDGET WITHIN LIMITS OF INCOME. FRANCE WOULD NOT FAVOR SUPPLEMENTARY CREDITS TO COMPENSATE FOR INCREASED DOLLAR DEVALUATION COSTS. HE WAS UNAWARE OF IDEA THAT SOME GOVERNMENTS MIGHT FAVOR PAYMENT OF ASSESSMENTS IN DOLLARS AND OTHER CURRENCIES.

6. ECOSOC: BEAUX FOUND OUR IDEAS ON AGREED STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PRINCIPLES ENTIRELY NON-CONTROVERSIAL, ADDING AS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT AT THAT LEVEL OF GENERALITY, IT WAS ALSO ALMOST MEANINGLESS. FRENCH WOULD LIKE TO SEE BROAD AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTIES AND FEEL THAT THERE ARE IMPORTANT THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA AND BRAZIL WHO ALSO WOULD LIKE TO GET AWAY FROM PAST CONFRONTATIONS AND MOVE TOWARDS MORE GENERAL AGREEMENT.

7. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF SPECIAL FUND FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DOES NOT COMMEND ITSELF TO GOF AND IT WILL OPPOSE. GOF ALSO OPPOSED TO CREATION OF UN BODY FOR COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY. BEAUX NOTED THAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FUND WAS BASICALLY PERSONAL IDA OF KENYAN REPRESENTATIVE, AND ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM UN SCENE, ISSUE WOULD PROBABLY FADE AWAY. BEAUX SAID TQT AS FAR AS COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY CONCERNED, EXISTING CENTER IN ROME ADEQUATE FOR CURRENT INTERNATIONAL NEEDS.

8. REGIONAL COMMISSION ON WEST ASIA: BEAUX WAS FRANK IN NOTING THAT FRENCH DECISION TO GO ALONG WITH NEW REGIONAL COMMISSION WAS FUNCTION OF ITS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN INTERESTS IN ARAB WORLD. WHILE MANY IN GOF AGREED WITH USG ON LEGAL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM AND ON CONFLICT WITH CHARTER ARTICLE 68, THESE CONSIDERATIONS HAD BEEN SUBORDINATED TO BROADER POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

9. ECOSOC EXPANSION: GOF EXPECTS NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN EXANSION AND UNDERSTANDS BASIC MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN WORKED OUT.

10. COMMENT: IN MANY AREAS OF UN ACTIVITIES, FRENCH AND US POLICIES ARE SIMILAR IF NOT IDENTICAL. WE CAN PROBABLY COUNT ON FRENCH SUPPORT ON FINANCIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES ON WHICH THEIR POSITION IS OFTEN MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN OUR OWN. ON OTHER HAND ON SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL ISSUES, WHILE FRENCH MAY SYMPATHIZE WITH USG POSITION, THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO TAILOR THEIR VOTES TO THEIR POLITICAL INTERESTS IN THIRD WORLD, AND THEREFORE, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, WILL AVOID VOTING AGAINST MAJORITY POSITIONS. FRENCH WELCOME CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH USG ON ALL ISSUES. WE ASSUME THAT DURING COURSE OF UNGA SESSION CLOSE COORDINATION WILL CONTINUE BETWEEN RESPECTIVE UN MISSIONS.
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